

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell and Eliza Symonds Bell, undated, with transcript

3rd copy Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Parents. Salem, Tuesday, (1873 ?) Dear Papa and Mama:

Letter received this morning. I am sorry to hear about Miss Arthur.

Hope the Lecture came to hand safely. The delay arose from my being unable to have it sent as a book parcel. Trust it did not inconvenience Papa much.

My last Lecture was on the "Relation of Tones to Language", and I shall continue the subject tomorrow.

In regard to private pupils — I have made an arrangement with Miss Locke to take all the labour of teaching off my hands. She is to receive pupils in my name, at my room in the University.

I shall merely superintend and give an occasional lesson myself. She is to receive one-half of the payments received from those pupils she takes in my name.

On these terms we have already three pupils — two deaf — and one a stammerer (the boy Aldrich from Providence). Mr. Aldrich, Senior, has come with his son and this promises to be a splendid case. Young Aldrich is doing beautifully. I recommended that he should be sent to you but they preferred keeping him at home just now and trying the effect of a course of lessons from Miss Locke and myself.

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Miss Bessie Brooks (aged 13) and Miss Mabel Hubbard (aged 15 ½) come every day, for one hour each. They both belong to the class called semi-mute and they are members of two of the highest families in Massachusetts.

Miss Hubbard's father is a prominent member of the United States Senate.

Miss Lippit, another deaf pupil, will also be in Boston shortly.

I am much pleased with the way this year has opened. My pupils, though few in number, are just those calculated to do me good.

I enclose a Time-Table from which you will see how I have arranged my time.

I had given up smoking sometime ago, but I have found on two occasions that a slight headache disappeared after smoking a couple of cigars so I shall smoke occasionally. Mrs. Sanders has a preparation of camphor, chloroform and some other things intended for Rheumatism and Neuralgia — that I have found give almost instant relief to headaches. Slight headaches disappear in a few minutes, and the most severe headache I have had since coming here was temporarily relieved by this preparation applied to the back of my neck.

With much love to all.

Your affectionate son, Aleck. Prof. A. N. Bell, Brantford, Ont.